

HARLEY QUINN

BY
STJEPAN
ŠEJIĆ

BOOK
TWO





BOOK TWO

STJEPAN ŠEJIĆ
STORY AND ART

GABRIELA DOWNIE
LETTERS

STJEPAN ŠEJIĆ
COVER AND VARIANT COVER

HARLEY QUINN CREATED BY
PAUL DINI AND BRUCE TIMM



IT STARTS WITH
FANTASIES, DOCTOR--
THAT WISHFUL THINKING THAT
MAKES YOUR MUSCLES TWITCH
AS YOU IMAGINE WRAPPING YOUR
HANDS AROUND YOUR
ENEMY'S NECK.

I DON'T
HAVE ENEMIES, MR.
JAY.

SURE YOU DO!
EVERYONE DOES! THOSE
PEOPLE YOU MEET AND THINK,
WON'T THINGS BE SO
MUCH BETTER IF THEY
WERE DEAD?

THOSE
PEOPLE WHOSE
VERY PRESENCE
TURNS THINGS
SOUR.

WE ALL KNOW
THEM. AND IT STARTS
WITH THEM. THEY ARE THE
FIRST ONES TO TEST
YOU.

WHAT DOES
THAT HAVE TO DO
WITH GOTHAM
CITY?





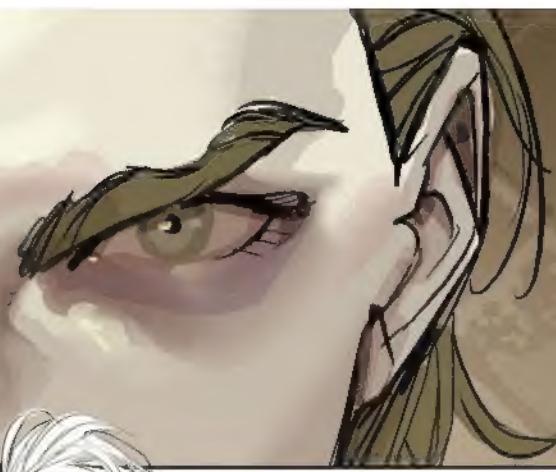


AFTER ALL,
GOTHAM'S A CITY
WHERE ANGELS FLY
ON WINGS OF
ICARUS...

UP, UP
THEY GO AND
THEN...

...DOWN,
DOWN,
DOWN
THEY FALL.

UNTIL WE
ALL STAND REVEALED
FOR WHO WE TRULY
ARE
UNDERNEATH.



DON'T!
TOUCH!

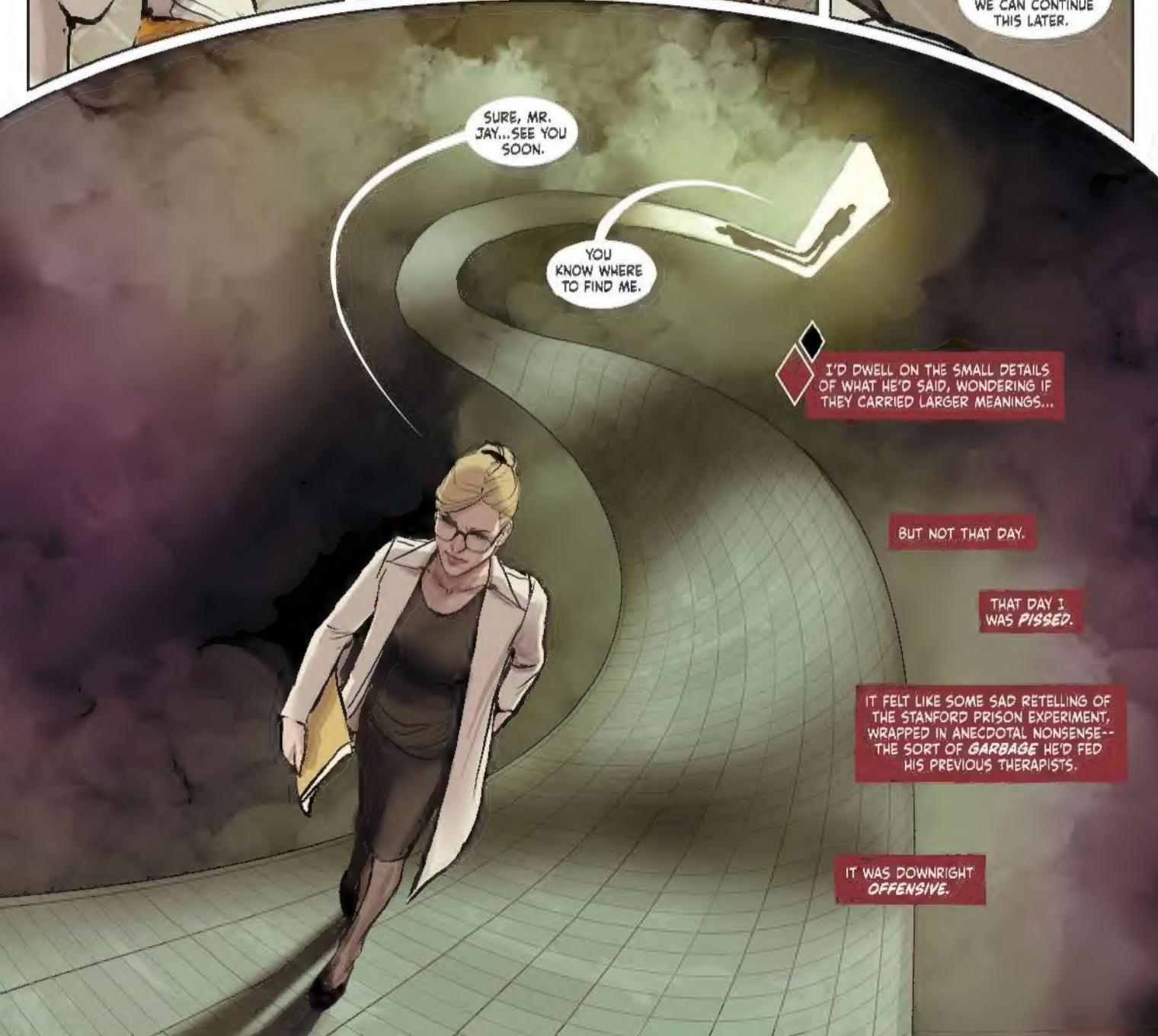
MY!

PLUG'IN'!



LATER IN LIFE, IN DARK TIMES,
MY MIND WOULD GO BACK TO
THIS CONVERSATION.









CLICK

THIS
IS WGBS NEWS AT
ELEVEN WITH JACK
RYDER.

GOOD EVENING, EVERYONE.
ON THIS SAD DAY, ALL OF GOTHAM
IS REELING FROM TRAGIC EVENTS
THAT TOOK PLACE EARLIER AT
GOTHAM SUPERIOR
COURT.

WHAT STARTED AS A
SIMPLE PRESS CONFERENCE BECAME
THE STUFF OF NIGHTMARES WHEN AN
ATTEMPT WAS MADE ON THE LIFE OF
DISTRICT ATTORNEY HARVEY DENT
BY ALLEGED CRIME BOSS
SALVATORE "SAL"
MARONI.

HERE IS WGBS'S FOOTAGE
OF SAID EVENT. **BE WARNED:** EVEN
THOUGH WE'RE NO STRANGERS TO
EXTREME VIOLENCE HERE ON GOTHAM
BROADCAST SYSTEM, THIS MAY BE
TOO MUCH FOR SOME VIEWERS.
DISCRETION IS ADVISED.

MR. DENT! SUMMER
GLEESON, WGBS.
DO YOU HAVE A
MOMENT?

I'LL MAKE
ONE.

THE CITY'S BUILDING
COMMISSION HAS CALLED FOR
AN INQUIRY INTO THE BUSINESS
DEALINGS OF SALVATORE
MARONI.

IS YOUR
OFFICE A PART OF
THE INVESTIGATIVE
EFFORT?

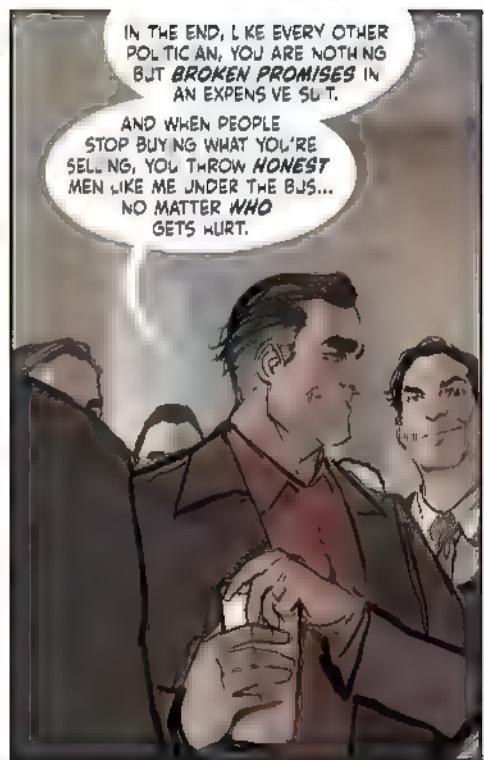
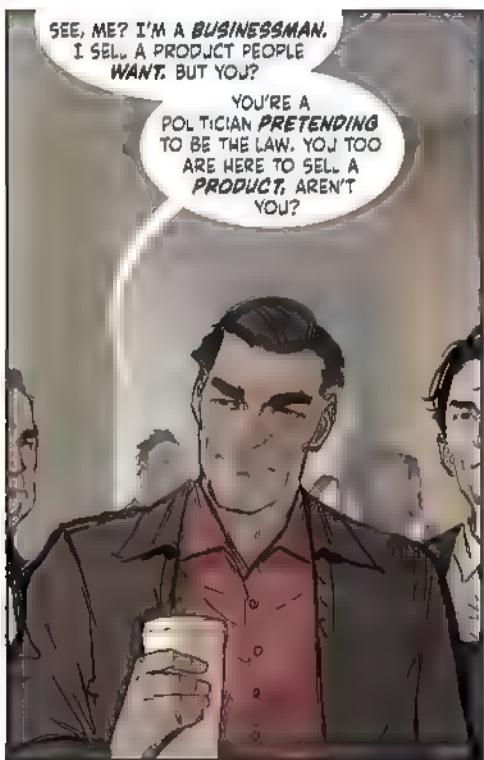
MY OFFICE IS BUILDING OUR OWN
CASE AGAINST MR. MARONI FOR
CRIMINAL ACTIVITIES THAT EXTEND
FAR BEYOND RIGGING
CONSTRUCTION CONTRACT
BIDDING.

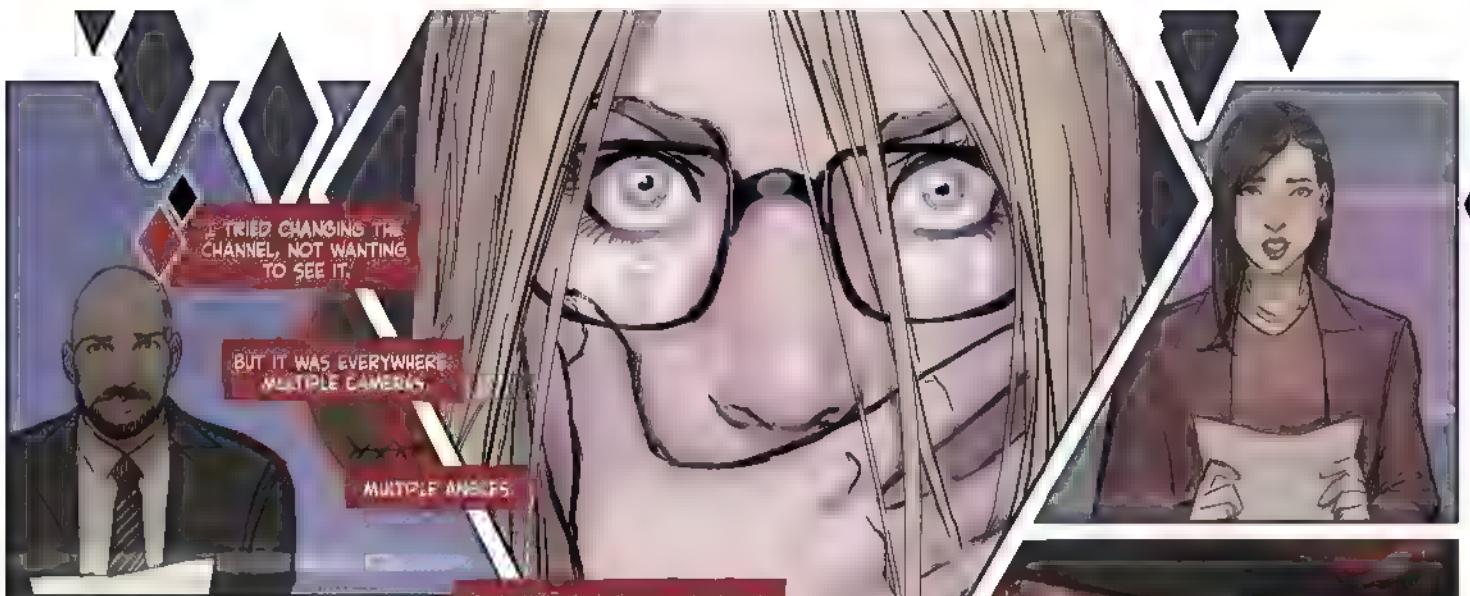
YES AND NO.

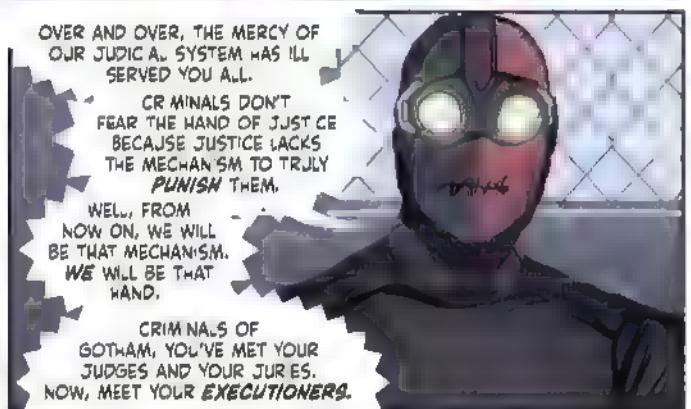
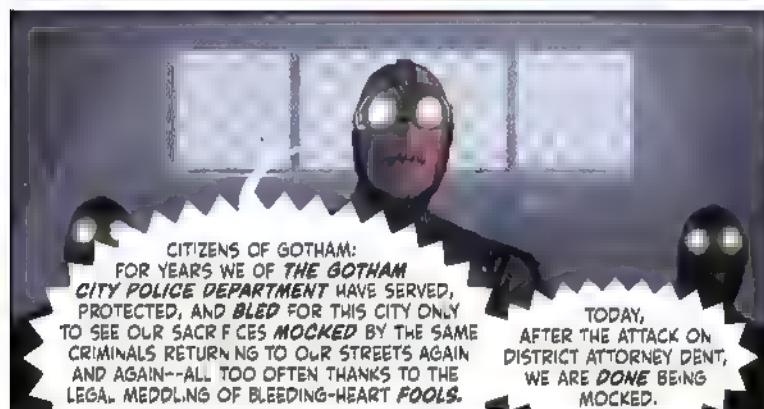
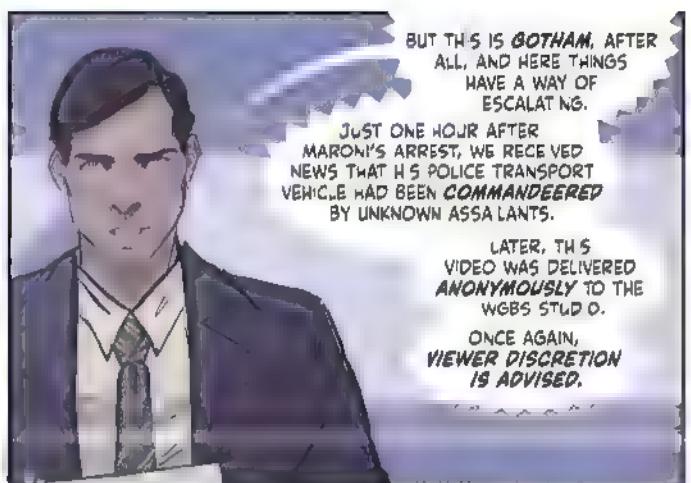
SUCH AS?

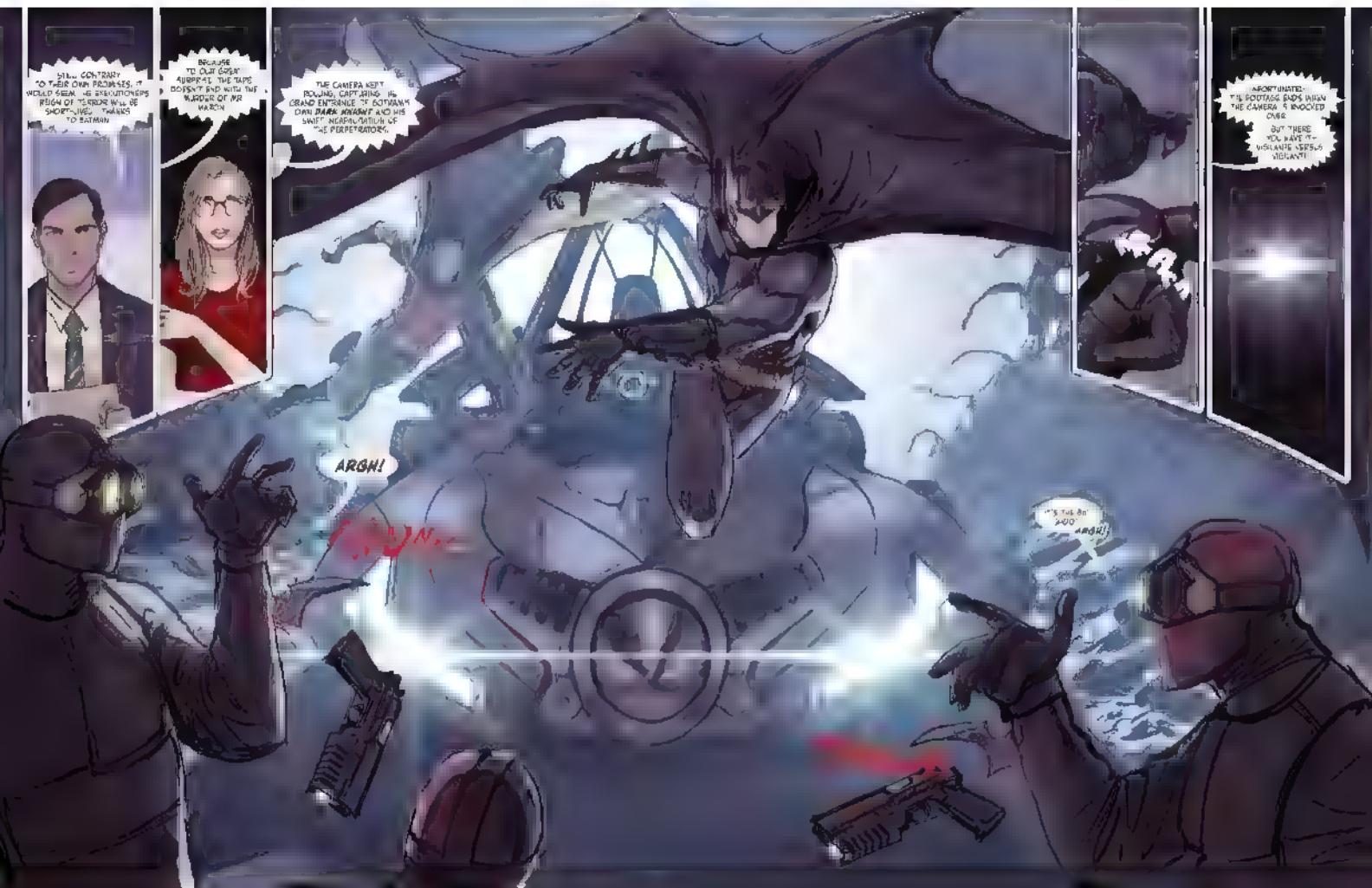
THAT I'M
NOT ABLE TO
DISCLOSE RIGHT
NOW...

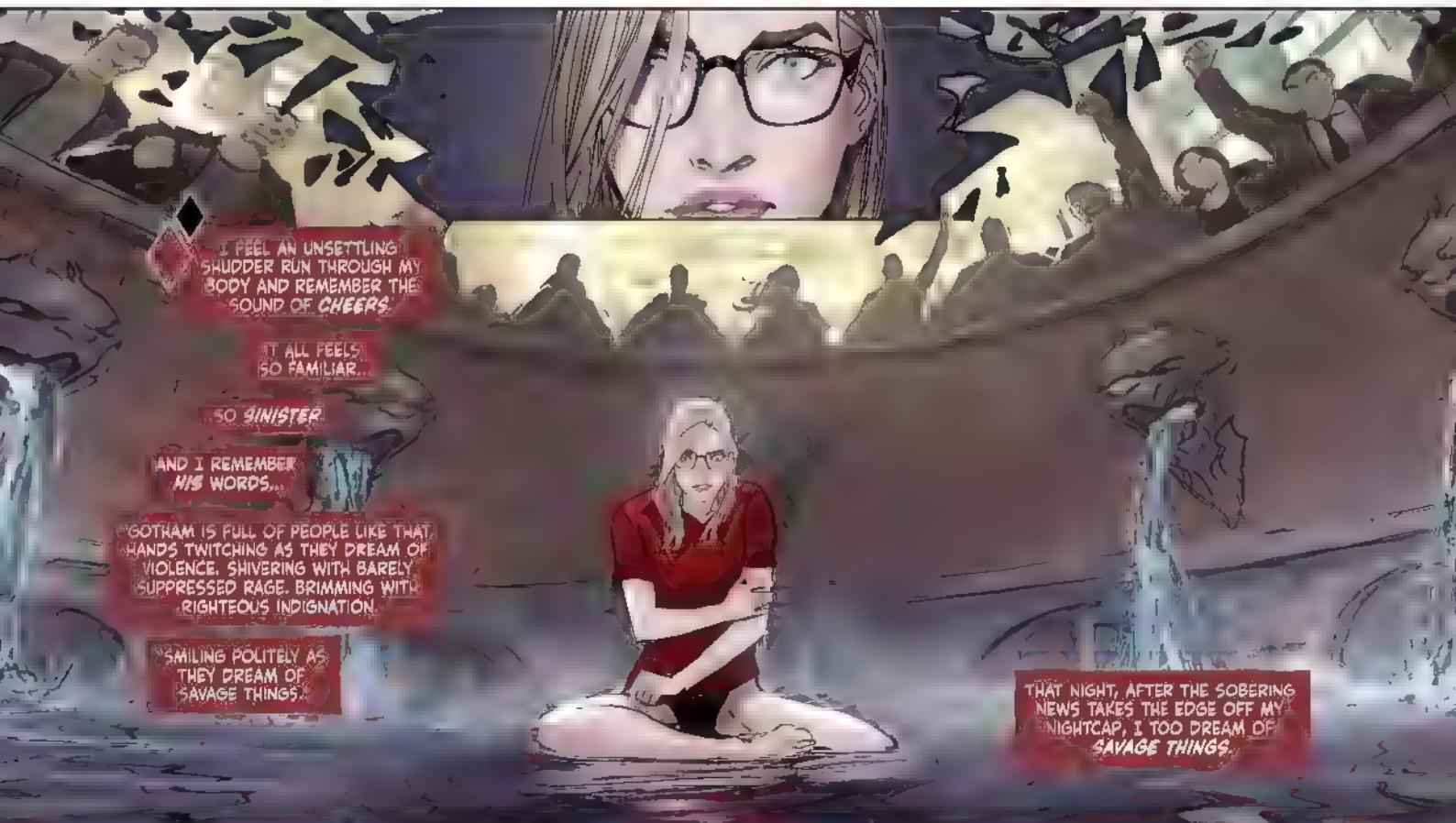
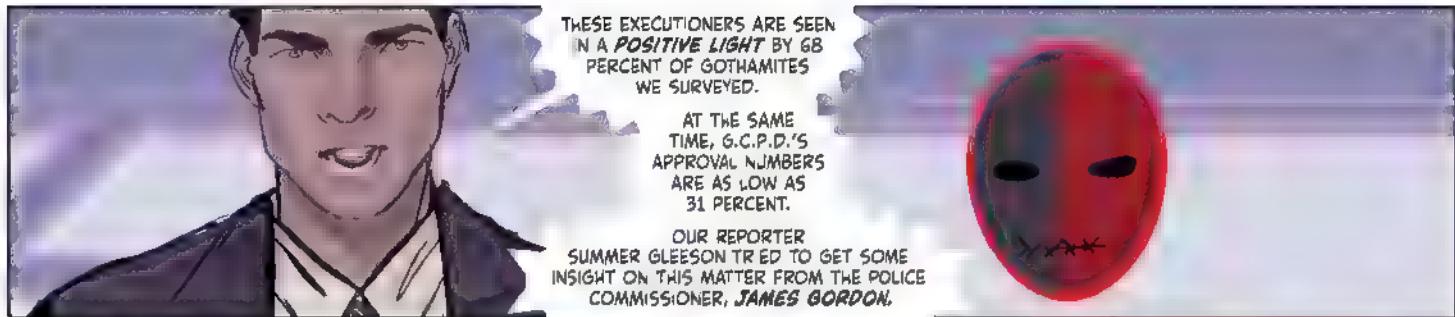
BUT I CAN TELL YOU THIS: SAL
MARONI IS AN **IMPORTANT**
MAN. IMPORTANT ENOUGH
FOR THE POLICE TO
DELIVER HIS **COFFEE**.
IT SEEMS...

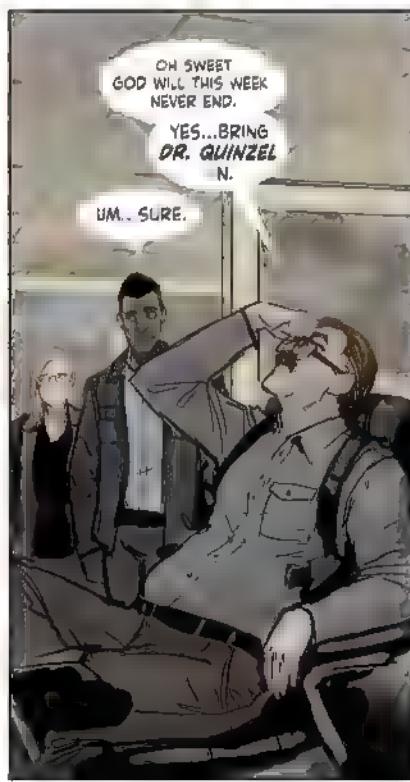




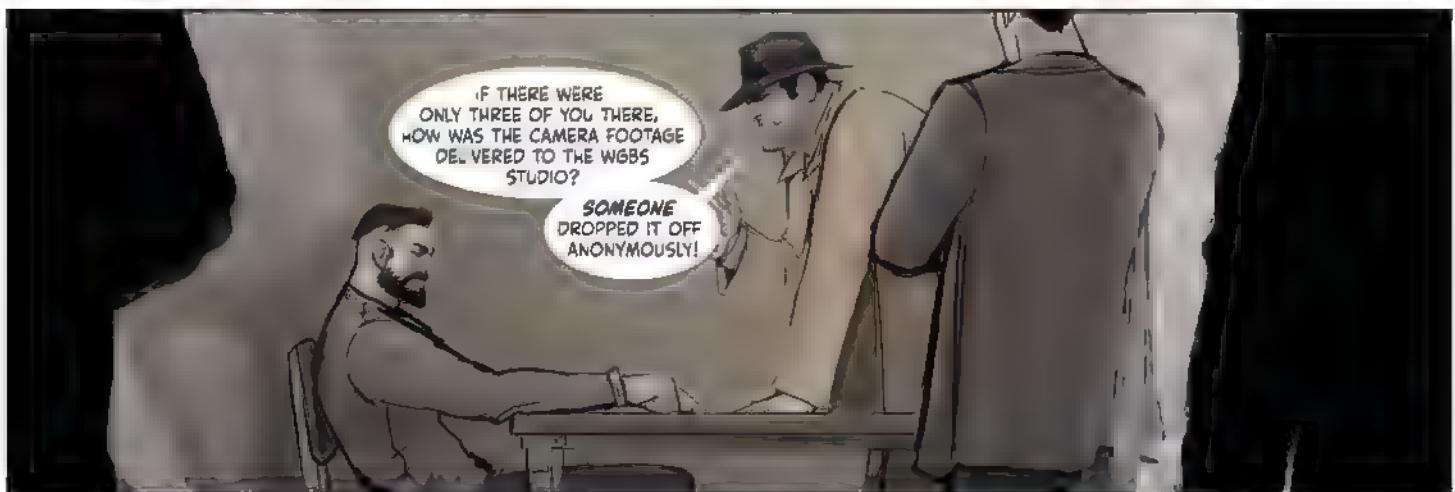












I'M SORRY,
IF THIS IS TOO MUCH
FOR YOU--

IT'S FINE.
HE'S NOT
MY FIRST MURDERER
RANTING BEHIND SOME
GLASS.

SO YOU SEE MY
PROBLEM.
I GOT THREE
HERO COPS UNDER ARREST
AND NOBODY KNOWS HOW
MANY MORE WITHIN OUR
RANKS ARE WAITING TO
SNAP.
EVERYBODY
SUSPECTS EVERYBODY
RIGHT NOW.

WE HAVE
LAWS FOR THAT,
HOSKINS.

LAWS...

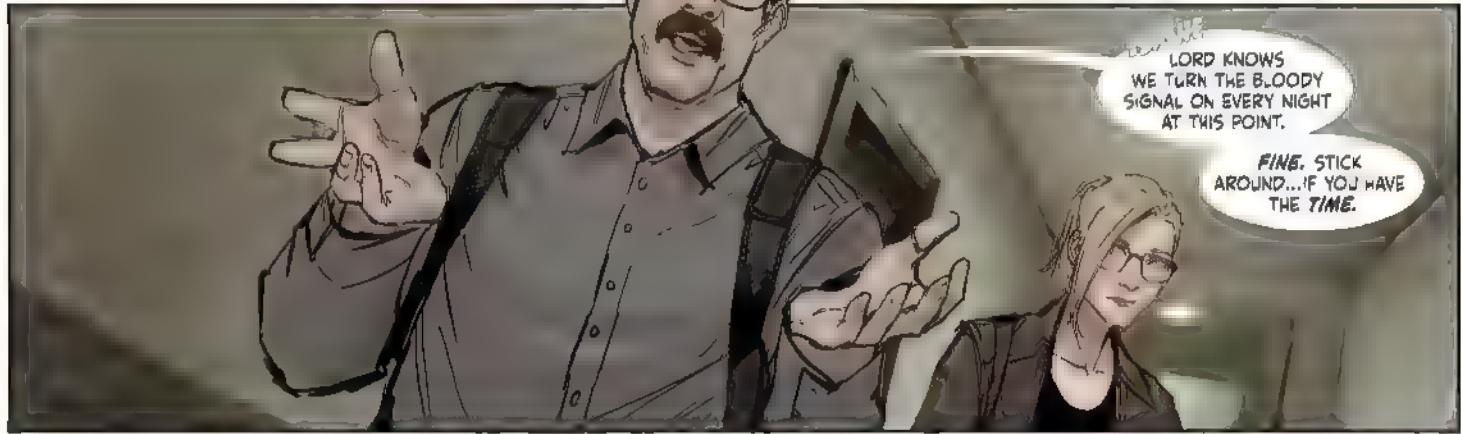
SO TRUST ME
WHEN I TELL YOU, YOU
WILL NOT FIND ANYONE
WILLING TO SHARE THEIR
PERSONAL FAILINGS WITH
A PSYCHIATRIST
TODAY.

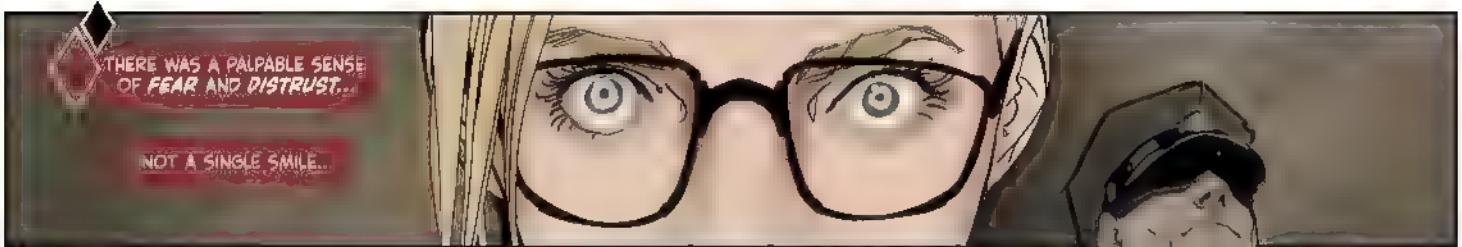
YEAH...

PEOPLE DIE BECAUSE WE
RELEASE THESE BASTARDS
ON TECHNICALITIES
OR FOR "GOOD
BEHAVIOR."

YOU CAN TAKE
YOUR LAWS AND
SHOVE THEM UP YOUR
CONDENSING
ASSES!
THIS CITY
NEEDS US BECAUSE
WE WILL DO WHAT THE
REST OF YOU
WON'T!
WHAT
EVEN BATMAN
REFUSES TO
DO!







A WAVE OF PANIC WASHES OVER ME AS I THINK, WHAT IF HE RECOGNIZES ME?

BEING THE DOCTOR OF THE MAN WHO HELD YOU AT GUNPOINT IS TROUBLE SOME ENOUGH...

...NOT TELLING ANYONE ABOUT IT WHILE CONDUCTING A STUDY ON THAT SAME MAN IS A PROBLEM.

GORDON.

NEW DETECT VE?

NO. A SHR NK.
DR. HARLEEN QUINZEL.

MAYBE, UNLIKE MR. JAY, BATMAN NEVER TOOK A GOOD LOOK AT MY FACE THAT NIGHT...

...I HOPE?

FROM ARKHAM?

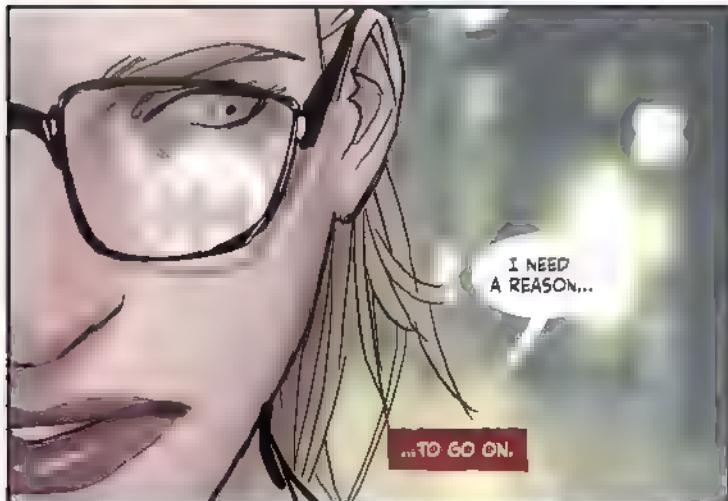
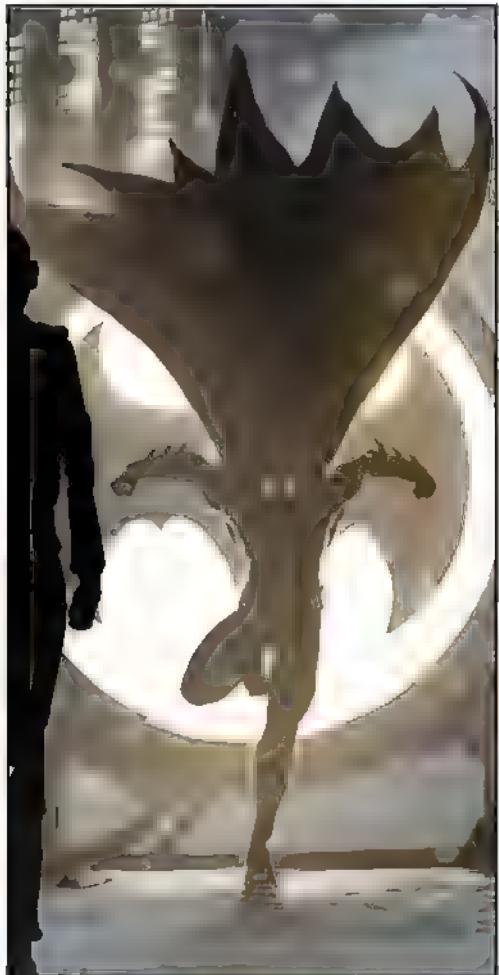
YES,
BUT HOW DID
YOU--

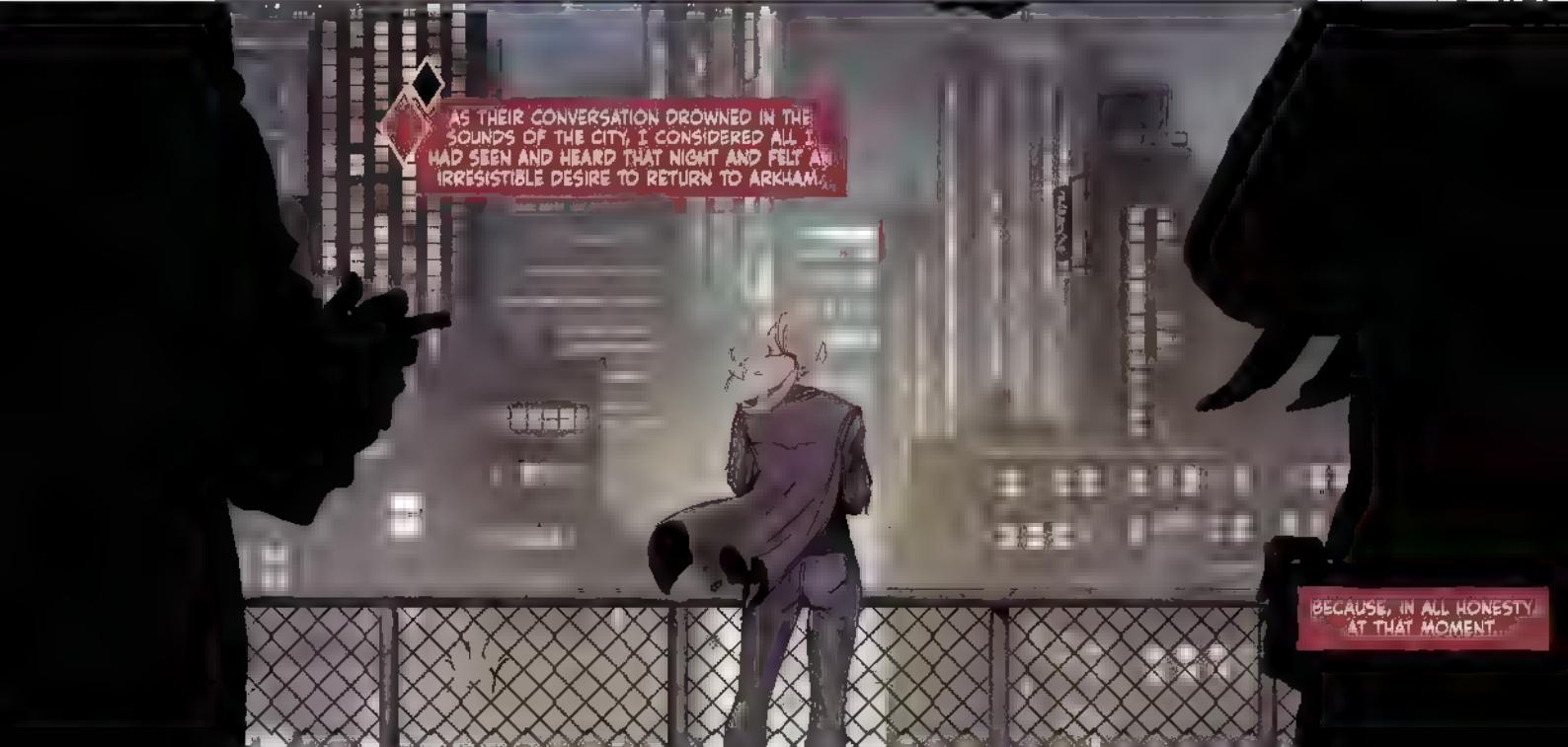
THE GOOD DOCTOR HERE
WANTED TO ASK YOU
SOMETH NG.
GO ON!

I'D WAITED FOR HOURS. NOW I WAS FINALLY ASKING HIM THE QUESTION.

IT WAS A SIMPLE QUESTION, AND I NEEDED HIS ANSWER. I NEEDED IT BECAUSE HE IS THE CRUCIAL PIECE OF THE MASSIVE PUZZLE THAT IS GOTHAM.

DO YOU
THINK THEY CAN
BE HELPED?

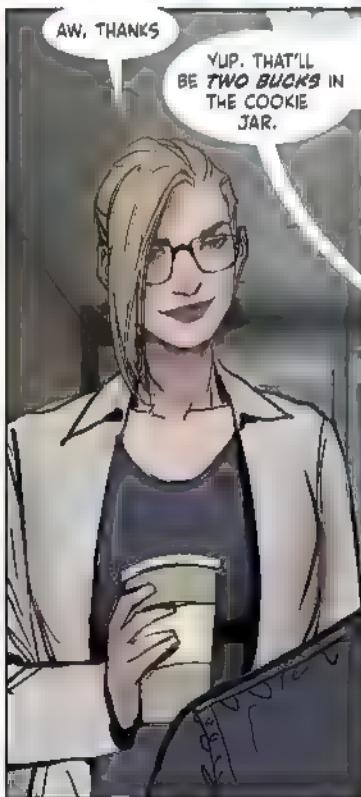
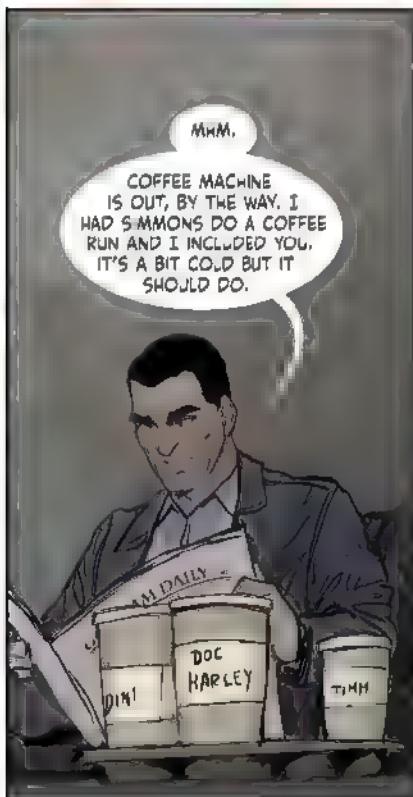


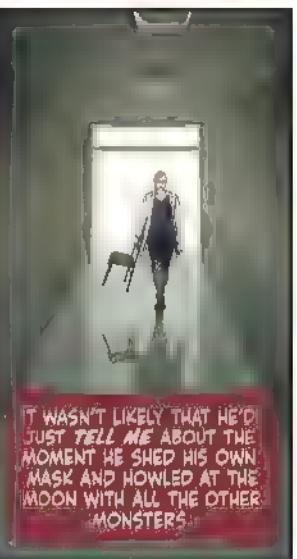
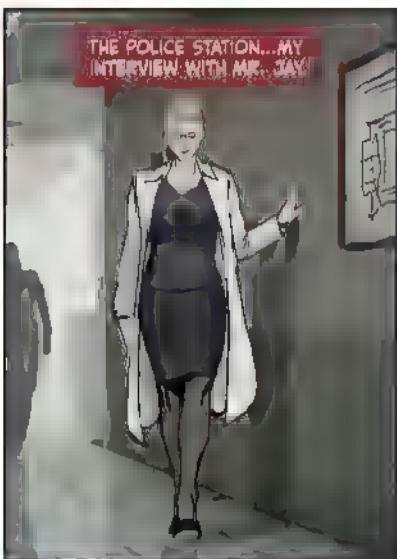


IT SEEMED LIKE A MORE
SANE PLACE TO BE.

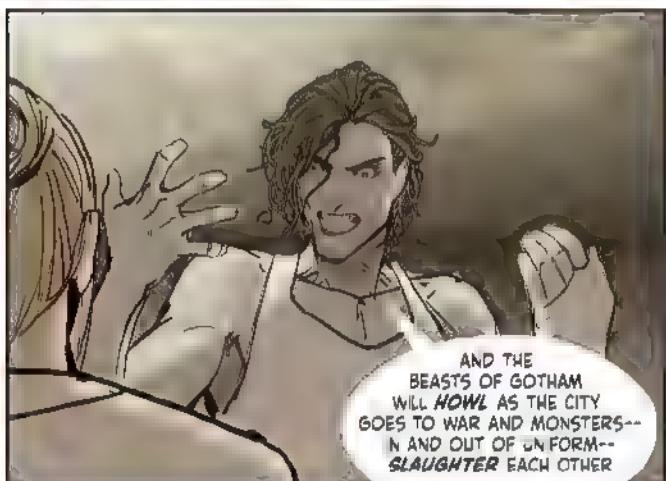
ARKHAM ASYLUM

Three Days Later

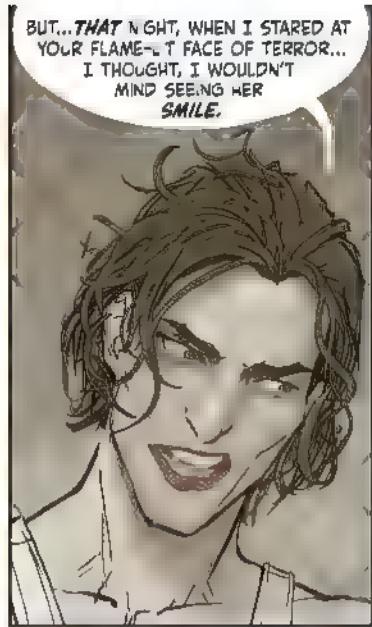


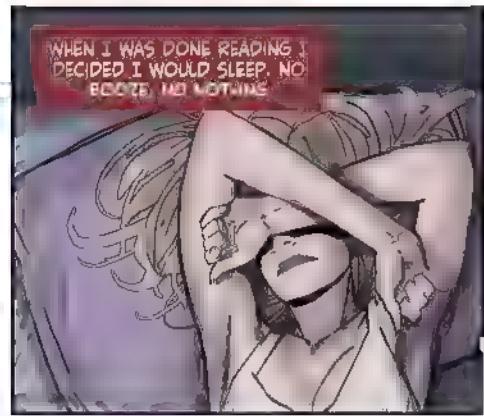
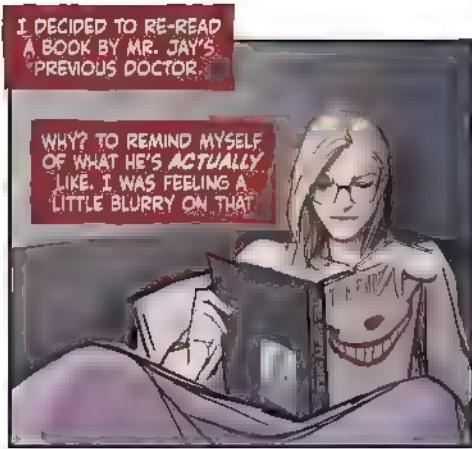
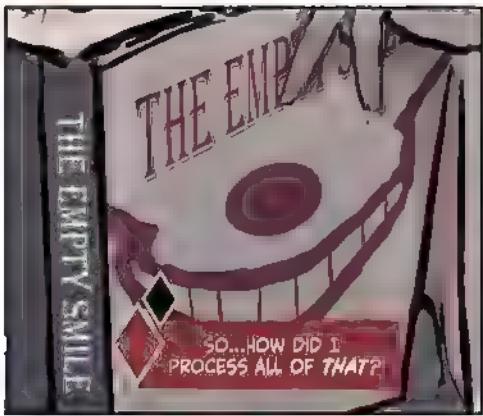


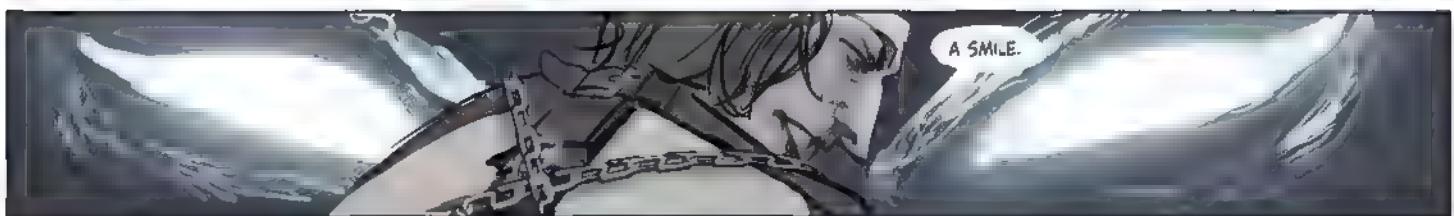


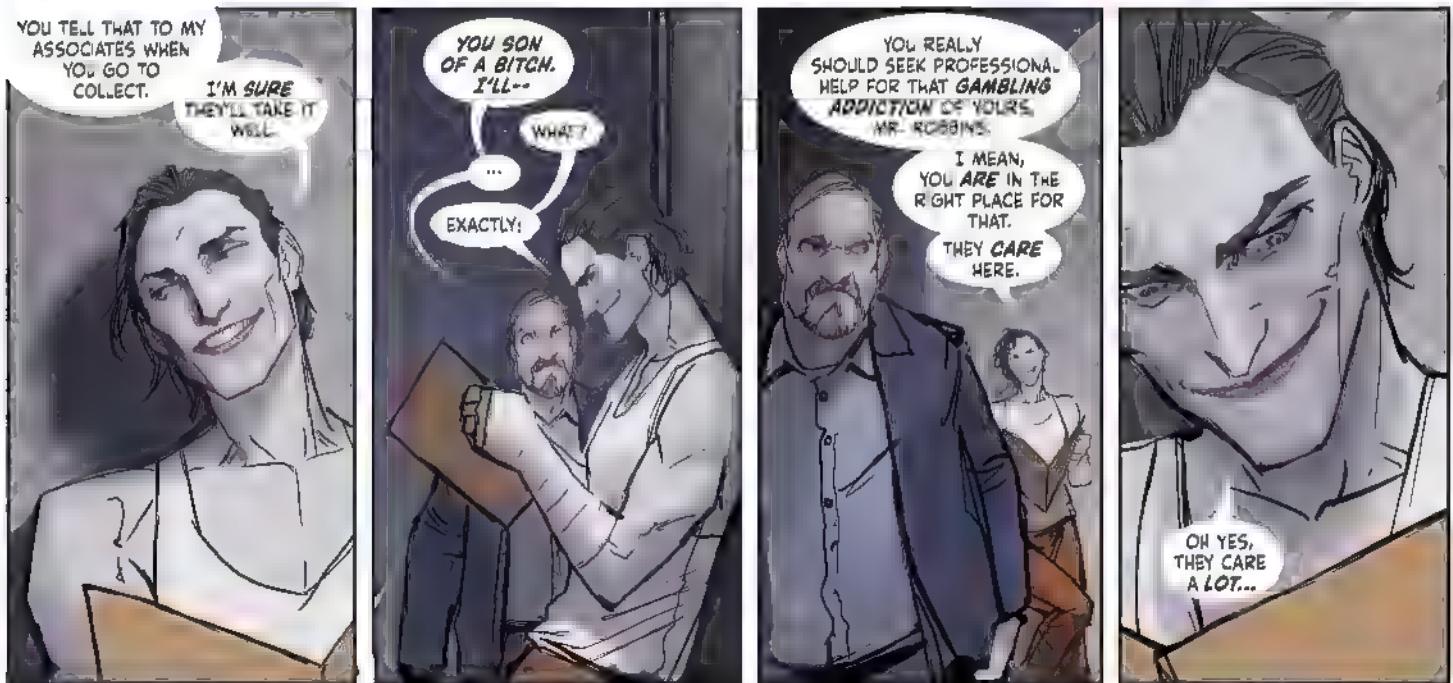












FOUR DAYS PASSED AND THINGS GOT PROGRESSIVELY WORSE.

HIS WORDS ECHOED IN MY MIND, MAKING ME FEEL OVERLY CONSCIOUS OF EVERY SMILE I MADE.

HERE YOU GO, MSS.

THANK YOU.

I SPENT MOST OF MY FREE TIME WATCHING THE NEWS. NOTHING TO SMILE ABOUT THERE.

...GOTHAM POLICE DEPARTMENT IS TORN APART FROM WITHIN AS ALL EFFORTS ARE FOCUSED ON IDENTIFYING THE REMAINING EXECUTIONERS ON THE FORCE.

IN RELATED NEWS, BODIES OF 5 X GANG MEMBERS WERE FOUND...

ON THE FIFTH DAY, MY MIND TURNED SADISTIC.

A GOOD HAIR MOMENT SPARKED A SECOND OF UNRESTRAINED VANITY. IT SMILED TO THE MIRROR AND A THOUGHT FORMED FASTER THAN I COULD STOP IT.

LIKE A BIT OF GALLows HUMOR THAT HITS YOU DURING A FUNERAL, IT CAME...UNWANTED, YET RELENTLESS.

WE COULDN'T PULL THE TRIGGER BECAUSE I WAS TOO BEAUTIFUL TO DIE.

I SPENT THE REST OF THE DAY FEELING DISGUSTED WITH MYSELF FOR LETTING SUCH A THOUGHT EVEN ENTER MY MIND.

LITTLE DID I KNOW IT WAS FAR FROM OVER.

HE HAD STOLEN MY NIGHTS...

MY DAYS...

AND MY SMILE.

NEXT...

NEXT WOULD BE MY HEART

I DECIDED TO AVOID HIM FOR THE NEXT TWO WEEKS. SEE IF THAT WOULD HELP.

IT DIDN'T. FOR THE DURATION OF THOSE TWO WEEKS, I FOUND MYSELF UNFOCUSED, MY MIND WANDERING BACK TO THAT MOMENT AND THE SOUND OF HIS VOICE.



TO ESCAPE THOSE THOUGHTS, INSTEAD OF BEING PRODUCTIVE, I TURNED TO THE TRIVIAL.



IN MY EXHAUSTED STATE I COMMITTED THE CARDINAL SIN OF THERAPY...I STOPPED LISTENING.



I GREW CYNICAL. MY SESSIONS WERE JUST EMPTY, USELESS RANTS FROM BOTH EGOMANIACS AND JUST PLAIN MANIACS.



AND IT ALL TASTES LIKE CHICKEN, YOU KNOW?



I RETREATED MORE AND MORE, JUST TUNING OUT...



I QUESTIONED MY THEORY, MY IDEAS, MY WILL TO CONTINUE.

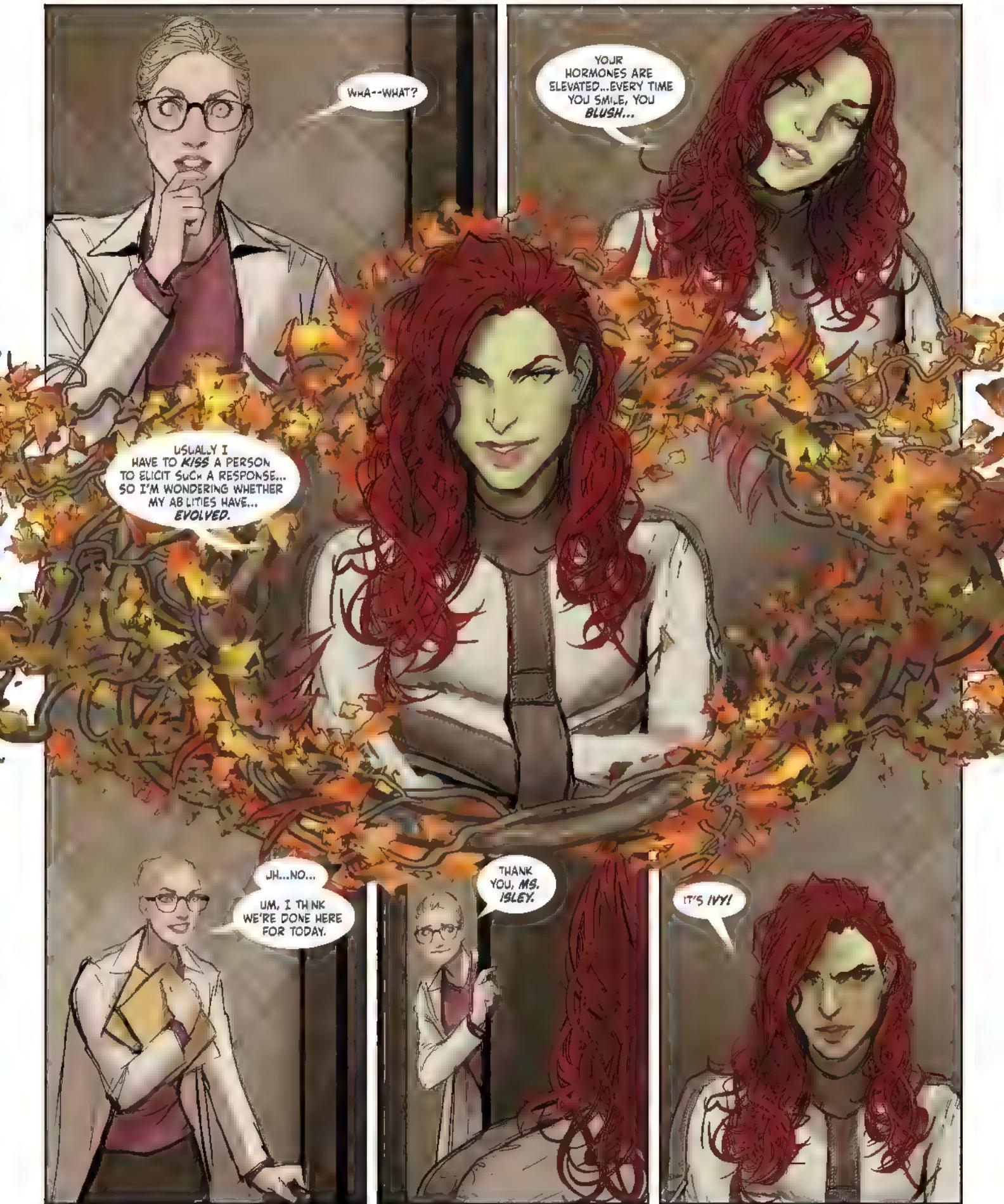


AND ALL THAT TIME, MY MIND JUST KEPT GOING BACK TO HIM...

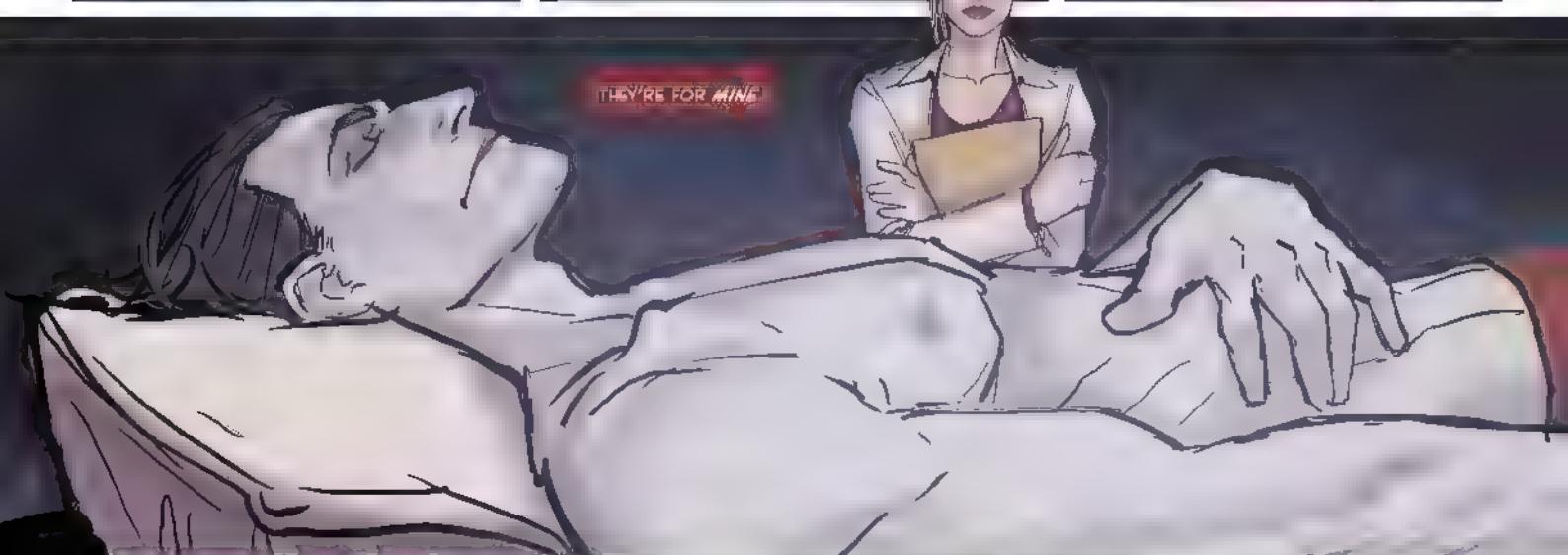
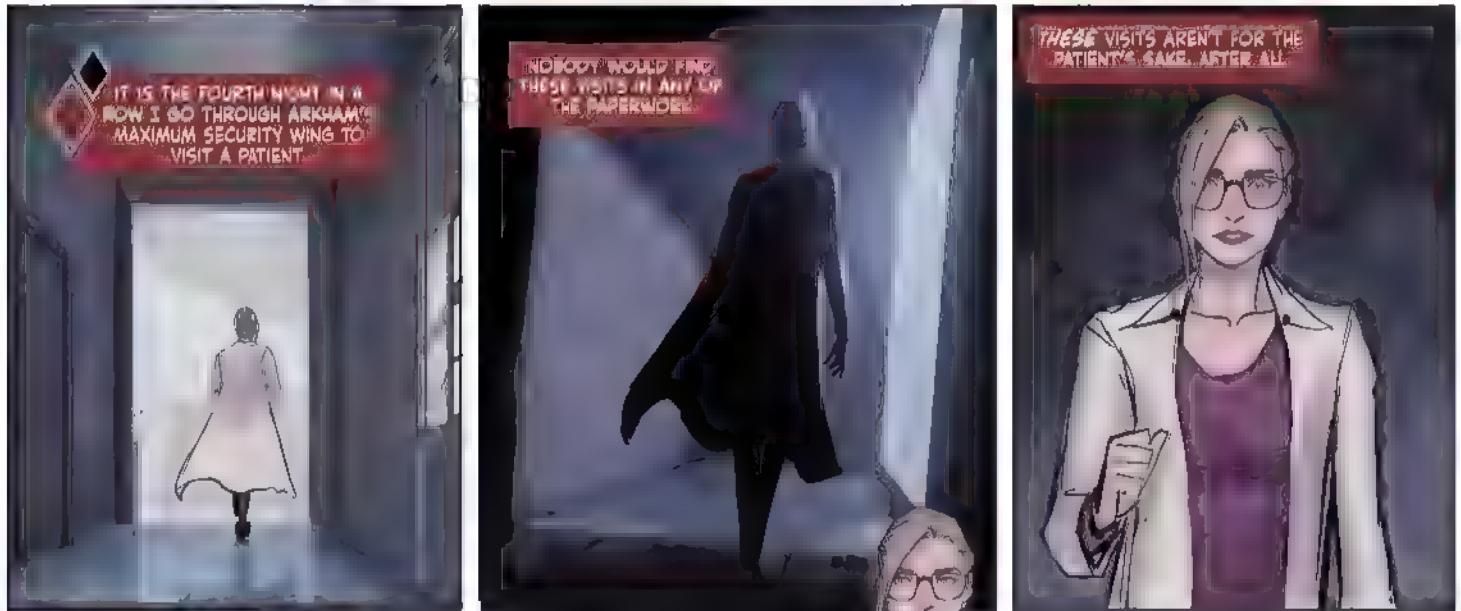


"NO JOKE...I'D LOVE TO SEE YOU SMILE ONE DAY..."











AS I WATCHED ONE SCARRED MAN SLEEP, SOMEWHERE ON THE OTHER SIDE OF GOTHAM, IN ANOTHER KIND OF HOSPITAL, ANOTHER SCARRED MAN WAS, I WOULD LATER LEARN, JUST WAKING UP.

WH...

NGH... WHAT...

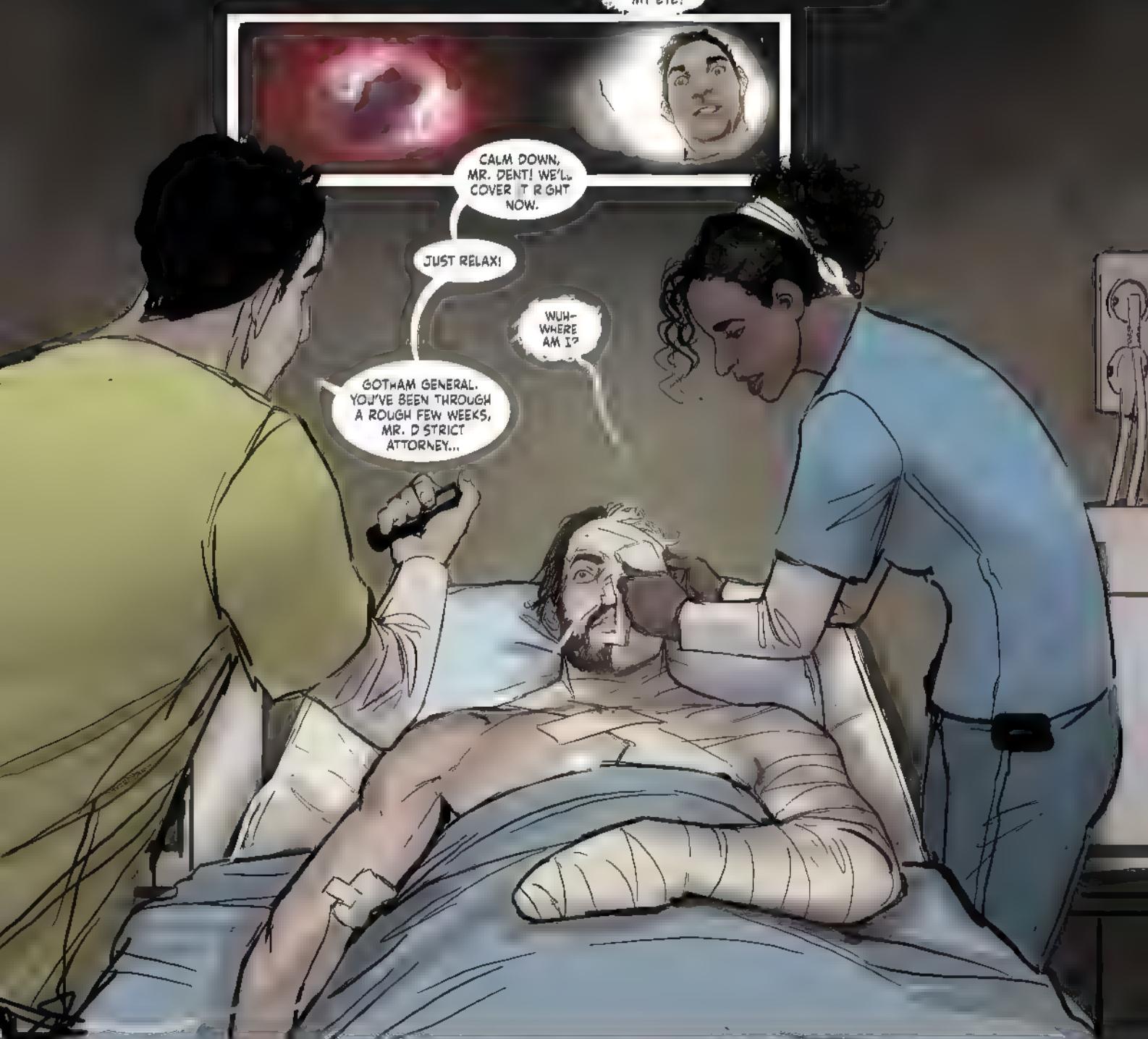
WHAT'S WRONG WITH MY EYE?

CALM DOWN, MR. DENT! WE'LL COVER IT RGHt NOW.

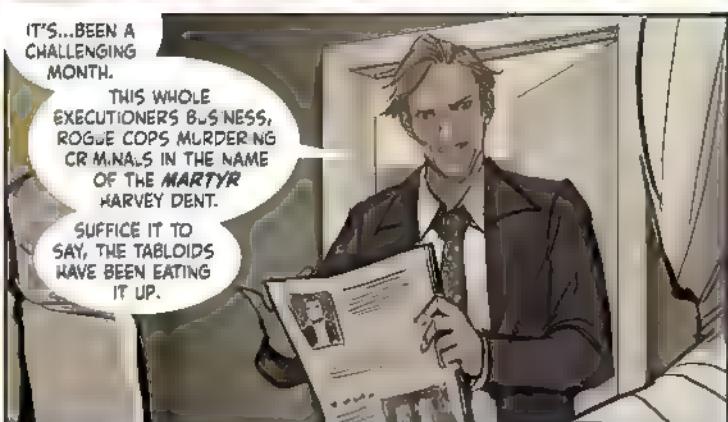
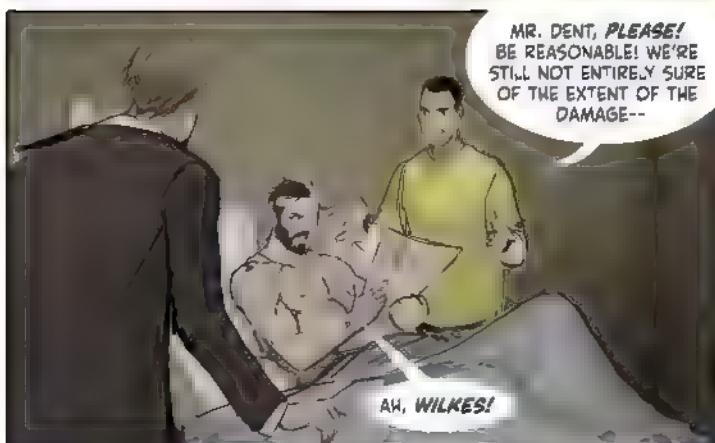
JUST RELAX!

WUH- WHERE AM I?

GOTHAM GENERAL, YOU'VE BEEN THROUGH A ROUGH FEW WEEKS, MR. D STRICT ATTORNEY...



TWO DAYS LATER.





Salvatore "Sal" Maroni Executed

Following the attack on district attorney Harvey Dent, notorious construction mogul and suspected crime boss Salvatore Maroni met his end by the hand of the so-called Executioners. The vehicle transporting Mr Maroni to the county jail was commandeered by the Executioners not long after its departure and from there on nobody knew of its whereabouts.

The autopsy concluded that Mr Maroni was savagely beaten for an extended period of time resulting in as many as seventeen broken ribs and was telecast after a tape was











I AM A
GOD-FEARING MAN
BUT IF WE KEEP TURNING
THE OTHER CHEEK WELL
RUN OUT OF CHEEKS!

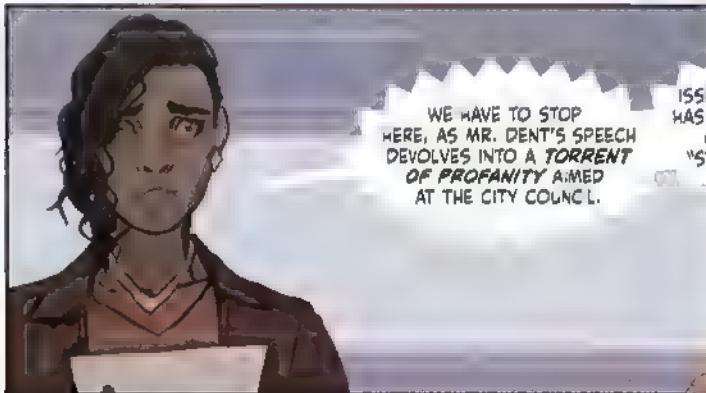
THE EXECUTIONERS
CRUSHED THOSE ROACHES
THE WAY FECKLESS
POLITICIANS NEVER
COULD!

THE WAY
THAT NOT EVEN
THE BATMAN
COULD!

AND EVEN
THOUGH NONE OF
YOU WILL ADMIT IT,
YOU KNOW I'M
RIGHT!

THERE IS
A CANCER IN
GOTHAM, AND THE
ONLY WAY TO CURE
IT IS BY CARVING
IT OUT!





CITY HALL SUBSEQUENTLY ISSUED A STATEMENT SAYING HARVEY DENT HAS BEEN TEMPORARILY REMOVED FROM THE OFFICE OF DISTRICT ATTORNEY, CITING "STRONG PAIN MEDICATION" AS THE CAUSE OF HIS STUNNING OUTBURST--

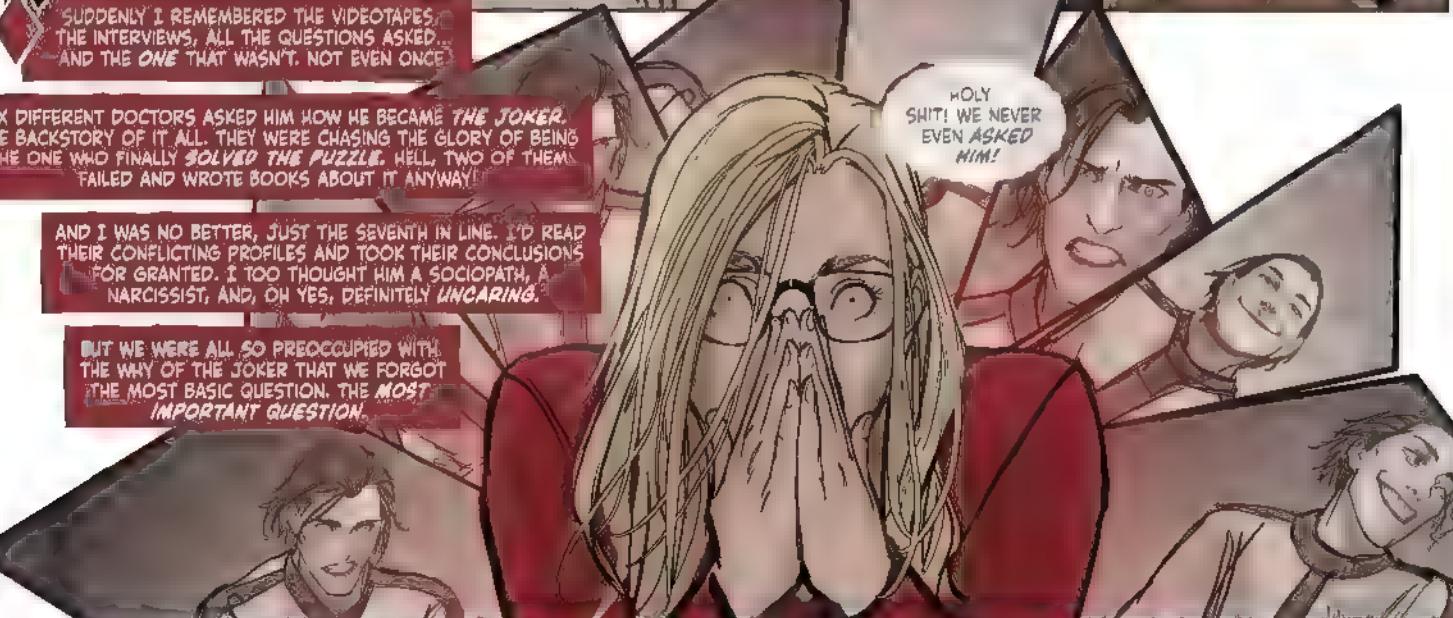
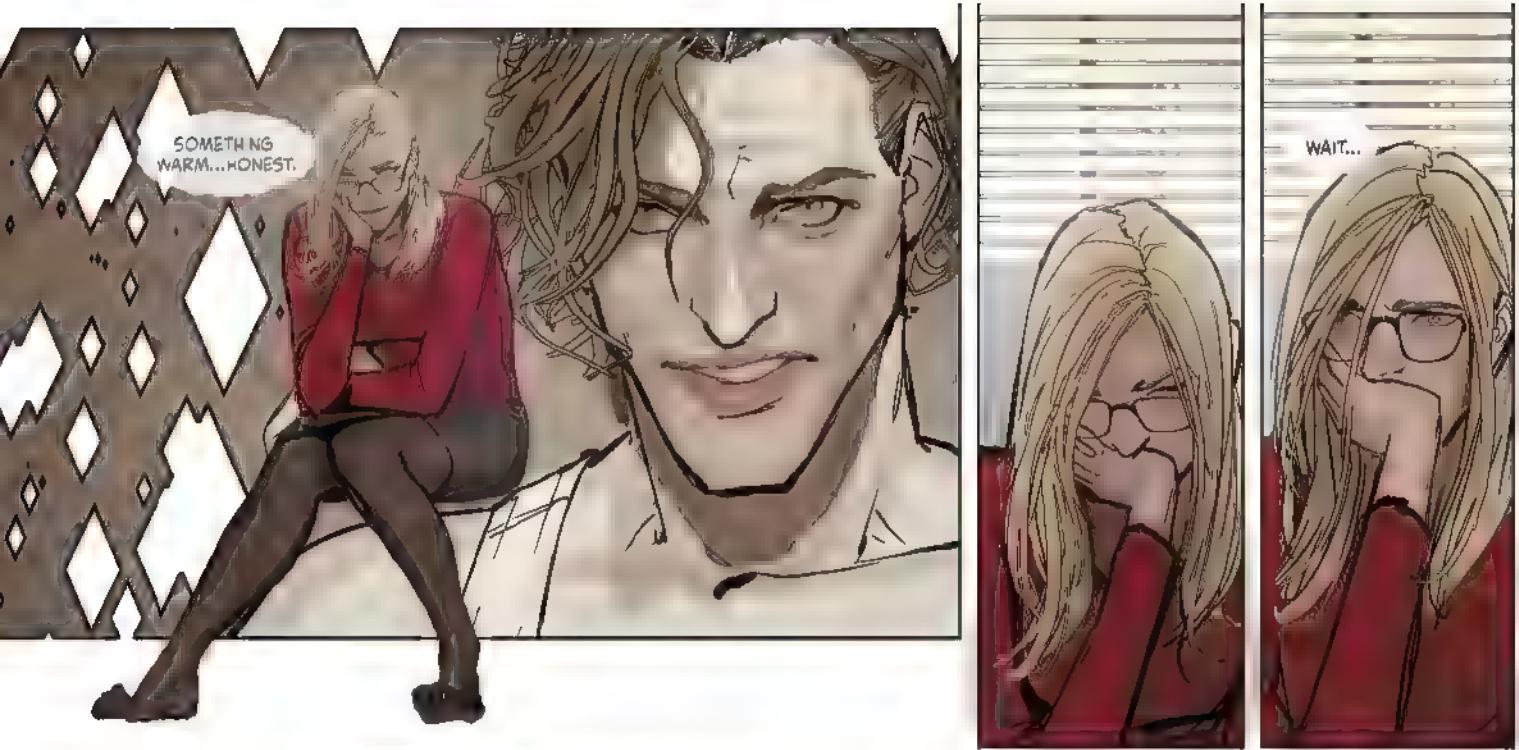


A MONTH AGO I WOULD HAVE BEEN OUTRAGED. I WOULD HAVE YELLED AT THE TELEVISION, FOR ALL THE GOOD THAT WOULD HAVE DONE. BUT NOT THAT DAY.

THAT DAY I WAS TIRED. TIRED ENOUGH TO STOP CARING. TIRED ENOUGH FOR DENT'S SERMON OF FEAR TO MAKE SENSE TO ME.

TIRED OF...EVERYTHING.

















SNAP OUT OF IT AND
ASSUME CONTROL OVER THIS
RUNAWAY TRAIN OF A SITUATION

UH. IT WAS
JUST THE ONE TIME!
I WAS...PASSING BY AND
I NOTICED YOUR
SCARS...

IS THAT PITY I HEAR IN
YOUR VOICE?

NO
NEED FOR THAT,
DOCTOR.

THEY ARE
BATTLE SCARS,
NOTHING MORE.

AND
ANYWAYS, I
BARELY FEEL
ANY PAIN

MY PROFESSOR ONCE SAID:
PSYCHIATRIST IS AN
ARCHEOLOGIST OF THE MIND

YOU GENTLY REMOVE LAYERS OF
DEFENSIVENESS, DENIAL, RESENTMENT,
AND SHAME, ONE QUESTION AT A TIME.

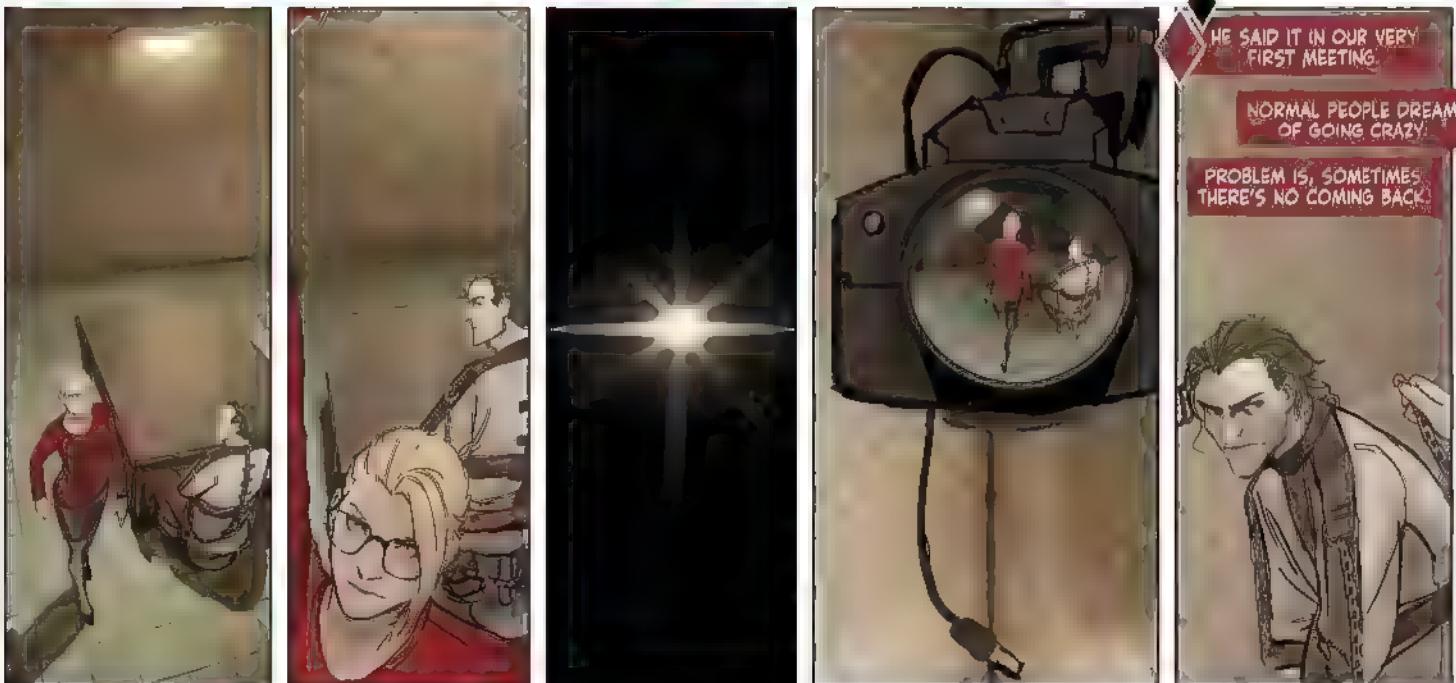
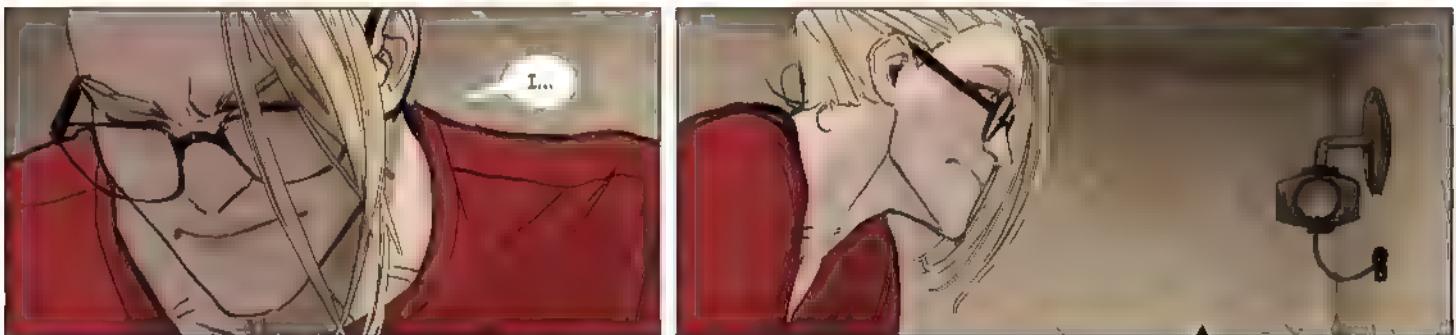
LIKE AN ARCHEOLOGIST, YOU GO
IN CAREFULLY WITH A SOFT BRUSH
AND A TENDER TOUCH.

WHY?

BECAUSE...
I WANT TO
HELP...

TELL ME, AND
HONESTLY!

MAYBE I WAS
DWELLING TOO MUCH
ON WHY I WANTED TO SEE
YOU SMILE. MAYBE THAT'S
WHY I LET YOU IN...BUT IN
THE END, NONE OF IT
MATTERS.



AND YOU KNOW WHAT? THIS CERTAINLY QUALIFIED AS CRAZY.

IT WAS AN ADRENALINE-FUELED MOVE OF DESPERATION.

AND IN THAT MOMENT I ALLOWED THE THOUGHT I HAD BEEN RUNNING AWAY FROM TO FINALLY TAKE SHAPE.

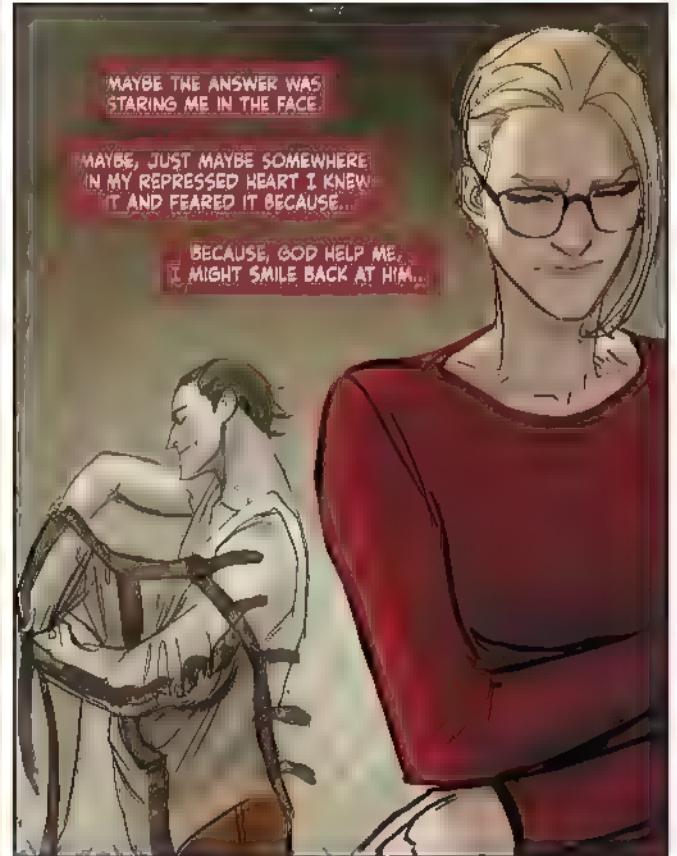
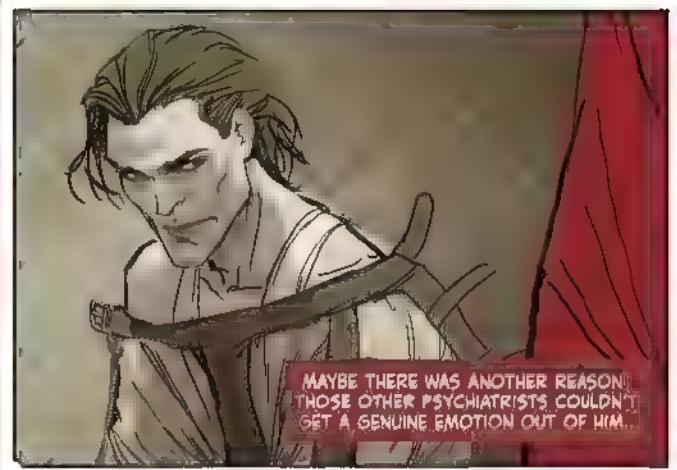
A TERRIFYING AND DARKLY ALLURING IMAGE THAT PLAGUED MY MIND.

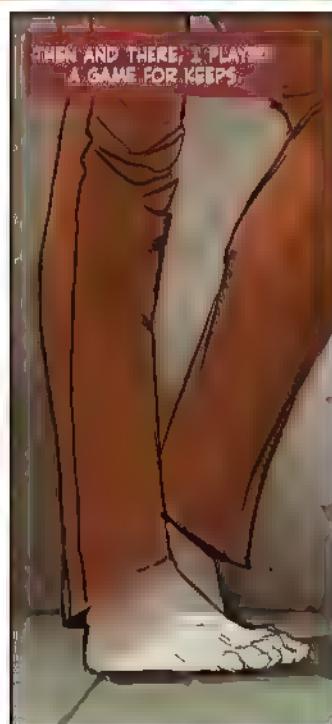
MAYBE THERE WAS ANOTHER REASON THOSE OTHER PSYCHIATRISTS COULDN'T GET A GENUINE EMOTION OUT OF HIM.

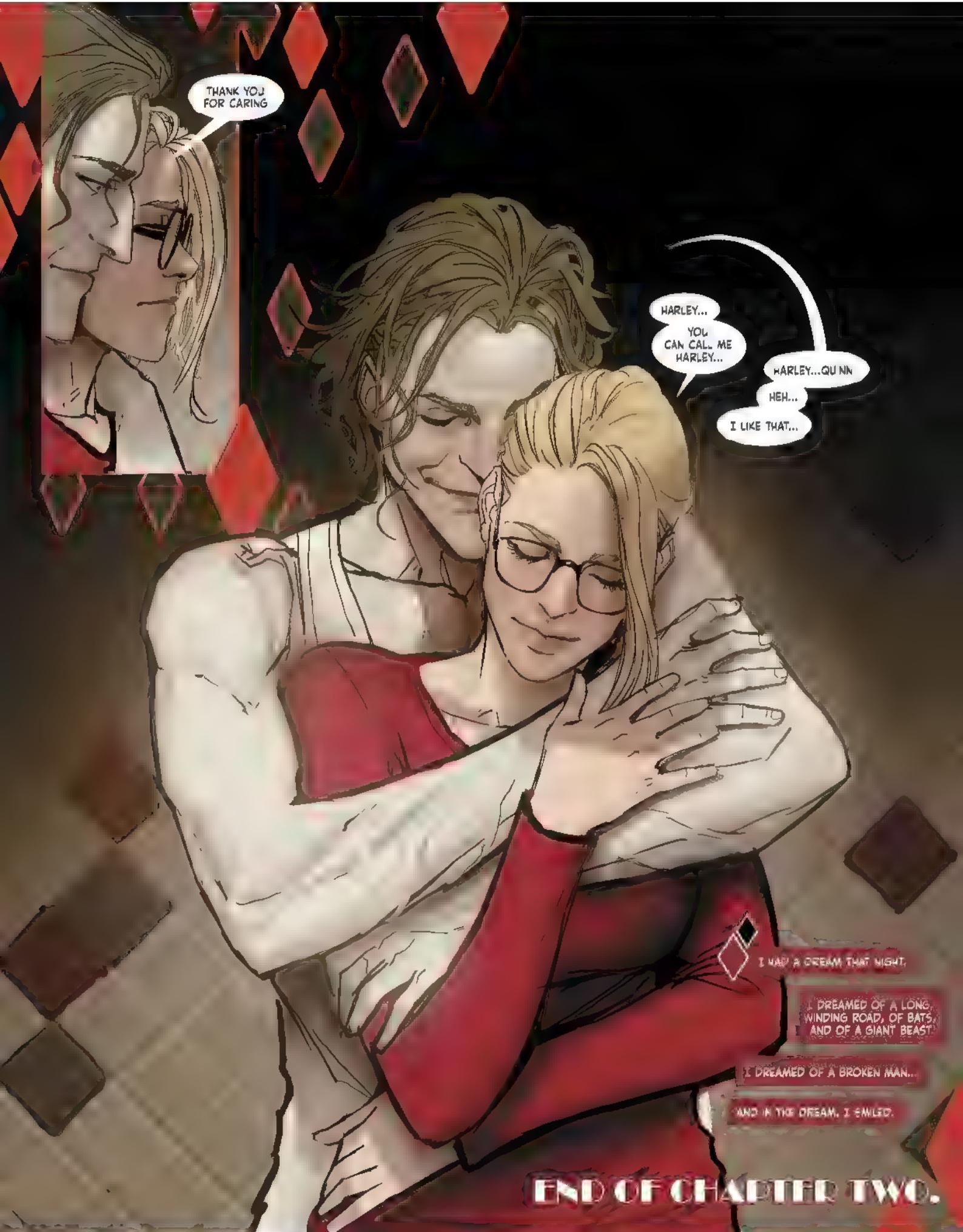
MAYBE THE ANSWER WAS STARING ME IN THE FACE.

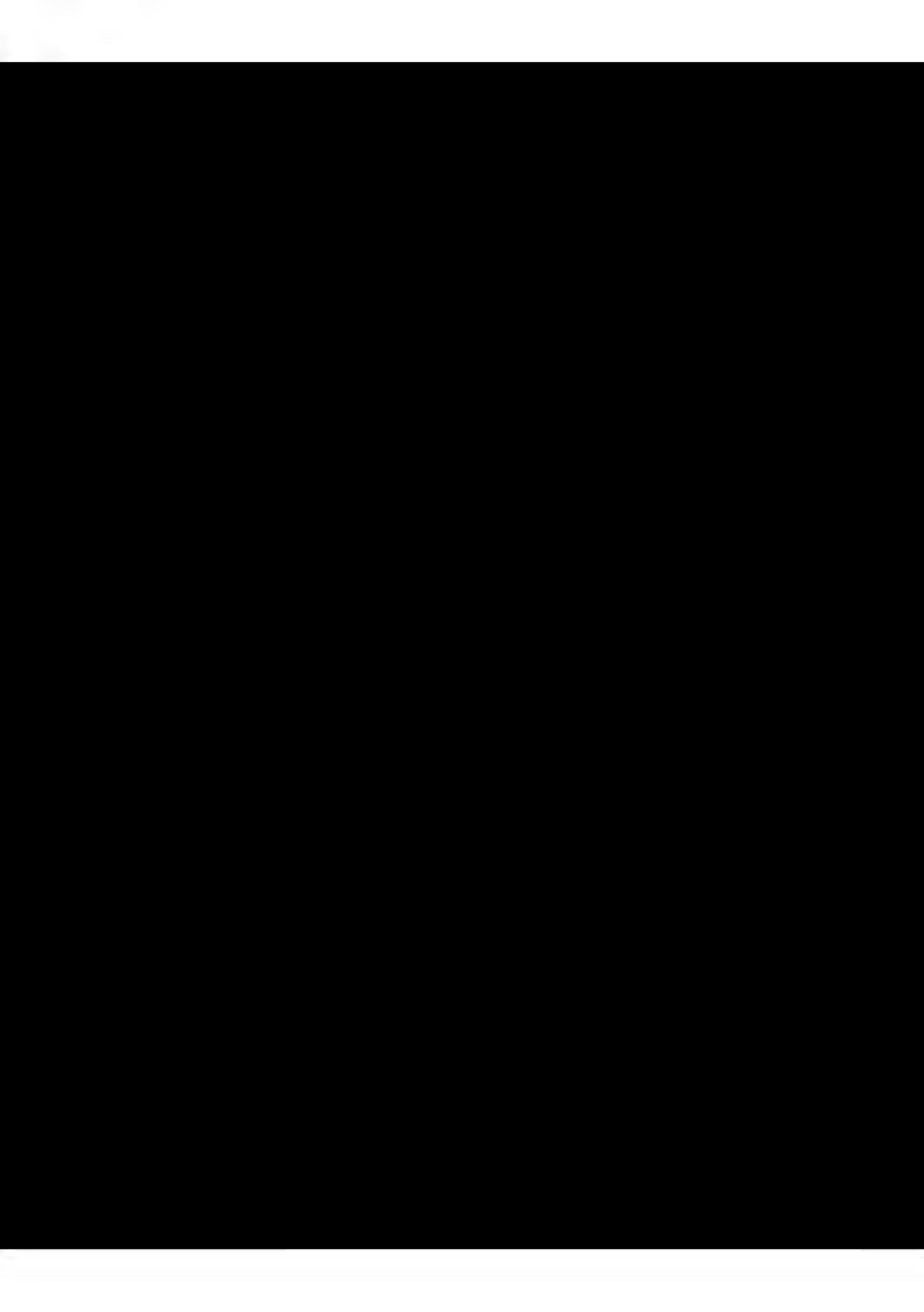
MAYBE, JUST MAYBE SOMEWHERE IN MY REPRESSED HEART I KNEW IT AND FEARED IT BECAUSE...

BECAUSE, GOD HELP ME, I MIGHT SMILE BACK AT HIM...











"THERE WAS
A BROKEN MAN
IN THE ABYSS..."

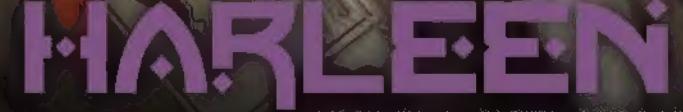
"...I REACHED DOWN
TO HELP HIM..."

"...I REALIZED
TOO LATE,
HE WASN'T SLIPPING..."

"...HE WAS
DRAGGING ME."

HARLEEN

BOOK THREE - IN STORES NOVEMBER





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**“HEAVEN
HELP ME...”**

**“A SMALL PART
OF ME...”**

**“...WANTS
TO LET
HIM IN.”**

A BRILLIANT YOUNG PSYCHIATRIST WITH THE CURE FOR THE MADNESS OF GOTHAM, DR. HARLEEN QUINZEL, TAKES DRASTIC MEASURES TO SAVE THE CITY FROM ITSELF. WITNESS THE BIRTH OF THE LEGENDARY SUPER-VILLAIN HARLEY QUINN IN THIS STUNNING REIMAGINING OF HARLEY AND THE JOKER'S TWISTED AND TRAGIC LOVE AFFAIR BY ACCLAIMED STORYTELLER STJEPAN SEJIC (*AQUAMAN: UNDERWORLD, SUNSTONE*).

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